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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 6 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint communiqué issued at the Fourth Meeting of the Summit-level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (Group of Fifteen), held at New Delhi from 28 to 30 March 1994.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 33, 37, 44, 49, 72, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 99, 101, 102, 104, 105 and 146 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) M. H. ANSARI
Permanent Representative

Annex

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, members of the Summit-level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation - known as the Group of Fifteen - meeting in New Delhi from 28 to 30 March 1994, note with satisfaction the work done by this Group since its inception four years ago. We reaffirm our determination to pursue the twin objectives of strengthening South-South consultation and cooperation and promoting the South's productive partnership with the North on issues of mutual benefit and common concern.

2. South-South cooperation is a necessary and viable strategy for greater collective self-reliance for national, regional and global development and is a major tool for the promotion of growth and accelerated development. It enables us to identify areas of complementarity amongst ourselves, mobilize our human and material resources for the benefit of our peoples, and enhances our capacities to contribute to a new and equitable world order. Two integral aspects of this cooperation are the active involvement of private sector entrepreneurs representing trade and industry in the annual Group of Fifteen Business Forum and Exhibition; and concrete cooperation projects. Through these, we seek to inform one another of our capacities, requirements, mutuality of interest and benefits so as to catalyse actual transactions in critical areas of trade, technology, investment and economic cooperation.

3. South-South consultation assumes a crucial dimension as the States members of the Group of Fifteen consult one another to evolve shared perceptions on issues and events of global impact. South-South cooperation is rooted in the empathy and support that the Group has for the vital interests of individual member States.

4. Impressive progress made by some developing countries, including those of our Group, reinforces the rationale for South-South cooperation. Structural imbalances and restrictive features of the world economic order impart an urgency for the South to look within itself for sources of creativity in evolving alternative synergetic networks of ever expanding trade, technology and investment flows for development. The trend towards subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration among developing countries follows from this realization, as do efforts of this Group to establish and foster trans-regional cooperation through specific projects and business interaction. We are convinced that our national institutions and efforts are key factors in transforming South-South cooperation projects into effective mechanisms and the achievement of concrete results.

5. The world today faces acute social and economic problems requiring urgent redressal on the basis of policies and efforts at the national and international levels. The future of world trade, monetary and financial regimes, economic growth and social development, as well as human rights, environment and population in relation to development, are vital issues in which the fate and fortunes of all countries are equally and inextricably bound. We seek to address these problems in a spirit of partnership and constructive dialogue with

the North, which will enable a meaningful interaction aimed at finding solutions to them. Such consultation and dialogue should be revitalized. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of resolution 48/165 on "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" by the United Nations General Assembly last year and consider it a significant breakthrough. North-South dialogue will be particularly relevant in the context of emergent and topical issues and events such as environment and development, disarmament and development, the multilateral trading system, the World Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development.

6. The disappearance of the political and ideological fault lines of the cold war had raised expectations of greater global security, stability, peace and prosperity, so that the focus of the international community could now be on the establishment of a just, equitable, truly multilateral and non-discriminatory international order and that there would be a reinforcement of international development cooperation. Furthermore, in this regard, the profound structural transformation of the world economy called for a new and integrated vision. These expectations, however, have not been realized. We have a sense of disquiet at the marked imbalances, insecurity, tensions and contradictions that still cloud prospects for lasting peace and economic development. We reaffirm the imperative for an international framework based on the rule of law and non-selective and non-discriminatory international action on issues of global concerns.

7. The interdependent world economy continues to be marked by uncertainty, imbalance and recession. Negative to marginal economic growth rates, persistent fiscal, trade and financial imbalances, an increase in cyclical and structural unemployment, an inability to coordinate exchange rates and trade policy, are some of the systemic problems of the developed world which have adversely affected the developing world. Resources allocated for development cooperation have been reduced. We are concerned about the diminution of attention to the problems of the developing world which are basic, immediate and of a great magnitude - absolute and deepening poverty, hunger and malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and the lack of shelter and sanitation for their citizens. The Group of Fifteen took note with interest of the proposal for the creation of an International Corps of Volunteer Workers, the "White Helmets", as an effort to combat world hunger. We call upon our partners in development to join us in unshackling the skills and talents of a larger proportion of the world's population and enable these millions to acquire purchasing power.

8. The countries of the South seek a world economic order where global economic growth translates into greater employment, higher real wages, a cleaner environment and people-centred development in all countries. Such mutually reinforcing and self-sustaining economic development is critically dependent on the free flow of trade, investment and technology across national boundaries and integrated trading blocs. We urge Governments and peoples, especially in the North, to recognize the undeniable symbiosis between the prospects of economic regeneration of the North and accelerated economic growth and development of the South. The accelerated development and liberalization of the dynamic economies of the South can and will sustain job creation and growth in the North based on technological advance just as restructuring and liberalization of technology,

finance and markets in the North will stimulate and sustain growth and development - both economic and social - in the South.

9. The prospects of our assuming a significant role in the world economy hinges on the success of the bold structural adjustment that we are pursuing at considerable social cost, trade liberalization and export-oriented policies. These efforts stand endangered by new protectionist pressures and barriers in the developed countries which are the very antithesis of the principles of free markets and comparative advantage, create further distortion and inefficiency and undermine growth.

10. We welcome the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multinational trade negotiations. It is hoped that, as promised, the benefits from liberalization, increased market access and expansion of world trade for all countries, particularly for the developing countries, will materialize. We expect that the World Trade Organization in its functioning would positively contribute to a rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and uphold the rights and interests of the weaker trading partners. It is necessary that some form of monitoring mechanism be established to ensure that, in the implementation of the Uruguay Round, the interests of developing countries are adequately protected. It is our expectation that compensation will be provided for those developing countries that will experience difficulties. Attempts to bypass and undermine multilaterally agreed frameworks for liberalization of trade through resort to unilateral actions and demands for concessions over and beyond those agreed to in the Round go against these objectives, as do attempts to use environmental and social concerns for protectionist purpose and effect. We are concerned at moves to inscribe new and additional issues like labour standards for the yet to be established World Trade Organization. We strongly urge trading partners to refrain from actions which would have the effect of unravelling the carefully negotiated balance of rights, obligations and interests of all parties in the Final Act, thus jeopardizing the global trading system.

11. We reaffirm the validity and continued relevance of reinvigorating an important component of development cooperation - namely, resource flows from the North to the South - official and private, multilateral and bilateral, concessional and commercial. Official development assistance and private investment flows are complementary inputs for development and both would have to be enhanced on account of basic developmental requirements, the cost of environmental protection and the requirements of a growth-oriented management of debt.

12. Our drive towards a market economy characterized by extensive and fundamental liberalization of investment regimes and the increasing empowerment of the private sector offers unprecedented opportunities for foreign investment in our countries. Our focus should now be on devising ways and means of accelerating the flow of foreign investment, on ensuring its wider distribution and development impact.

13. For some developing countries, the debt burden continues to be a priority issue and its resolution a test case of the world's will in resolving issues of common concern. The debt crisis is far from over and manifests itself in

reduced consumption, investment and growth, development progress foregone, and in the degradation of social infrastructure and services, as well as of the environment. A solution to this crisis lies in enlarging the export opportunities of developing countries and the flows of additional resources to them on the one hand, and imaginative, systematic and comprehensive approaches to the resolution of the debt problem itself, inter alia, through reduction of debt and of the burden of debt-servicing while being sensitive to the specific problems and requirements of individual countries.

14. The United Nations should play a central role in the collective efforts to define the new world order which aspires to realize the mutually supportive objectives of peace and development. The implementation of the Agenda for Peace must be based on the rule of law, on the Charter principles relating to the concepts of sovereignty, equality, universality, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as on the acknowledgement of national specificities.

15. The highest priority should be given to the Agenda for Development so as to re-establish the original equilibrium between the twin objectives of development and peace contained in the Charter of the United Nations. Development must be seen not only as a condition for the successful implementation of an Agenda for Peace, but more so, as an essential aspiration of all people, to be pursued in itself, which, in turn, promotes higher standards of living and reduces the abysmal disparity among them. Towards this end, developing country concerns must be integrated into all deliberations of global trade, finance and technology cooperation.

16. We take the view that the United Nations should be restructured to take account of the significant changes that have taken place in the post-war system. The restructuring should rest on the principles of democratization and transparency in decision-making in the United Nations and all its agencies. The General Assembly should be revitalized, in its roles and functions. A suitable formula should be devised to establish appropriate and dynamic interactions between the Security Council and the Assembly. Both reform and expansion aspects of restructuring of the United Nations Security Council, including its decision-making processes and procedures, should be examined as an integral part of a common package. The permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council should be expanded on democratic principles having regard to the various proposals by developing countries for their representation on the Council. Taking into consideration the political changes that have taken place in the world, we call for an expansion of the membership in the Conference on Disarmament.

17. We are committed to the values of democracy, pluralism, rule of law and to the protection and promotion of human rights at the national and international levels. We reaffirm the importance of fundamental freedoms, and the dignity of the human person and that all human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. Their promotion and protection through national policies and international cooperation should be pursued within the framework of the respect for the principles and purposes of the United Nations, and must be global in scope and non-discriminatory in approach. We welcome the adoption by the World Conference

on Human Rights of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. We particularly welcome the recognition of the right to development as an inalienable human right. In this respect, we stress that the realization of this right requires not only adequate national policies, but also a favourable international economic environment. The recognition of the interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of democracy, development and respect for human rights is equally relevant.

18. Terrorism has emerged as one of the most dangerous threats to the enjoyment of human rights. Terrorists and their organizations violate the human rights of innocent civilians while at the same time undermining the free functioning of democratic institutions. Terrorism takes on a particularly pernicious character when it is aided from abroad. The international community should cooperate effectively to prevent and combat terrorism.

19. Illicit drug production, traffic and consumption is a problem with international ramifications and is linked, in some countries, with terrorism. The solution to this problem should be based on a comprehensive approach of shared responsibility and of cooperation between the drug-producing countries and those affected by a high level of consumption of illicit drugs.

20. We reaffirm our political commitment to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular to the implementation of Agenda 21 and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Our policies and measures are directed towards environmentally sound development. We call upon developed countries to honour their commitments made at Rio de Janeiro and support our endeavours through the provision of new and additional financial resources, environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms, as well as the non-resort to environmental conditionality on trade and development.

21. We express our full support to the steps taken to implement decisions of the Conference on Environment and Development, including the ongoing process for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification, and call upon the United Nations system and developed countries to provide their support to this convention, which should be finalized and adopted in June 1994 in accordance with the Rio Declaration. We endorse the Delhi Declaration on Forests. We emphasize the need to improve the methodology for valuing the environmental and natural resource accounting through cooperation with research institutions in the developing countries.

22. Deeply conscious that children are the most precious human resource, we reaffirm our commitment to the protection and welfare of children, particularly through vigorous implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Children. We recognize the role of the United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund in contributing to this effort.

23. We stress our full support to the preparations in course for the Women's Summit to be held in Beijing in 1995 and the World Conference on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to be held in Yokohama, Japan, in 1994.

24. We welcome the World Summit for Social Development scheduled for 1995, which will provide a major opportunity to focus our attention on issues of fundamental concern for all and encourage the maximum participation in it of Heads of State/Government. The core issues which have been identified for deliberations at the World Summit are increasing productive employment, poverty alleviation and enhancing social integration. The issues themselves are closely interlinked and must be addressed in a holistic manner. The Summit must come up with implementable commitments for additional resources dedicated to actionable, realistic programmes to remove hunger and poverty and to sustain equitable economic growth which alone can guarantee harmonious social development.

25. We welcome the international Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in September 1994, which will provide the opportunity to intensify action at the global, regional and national levels and to treat population issues in their proper developmental perspective and focus on related socio-economic factors such as poverty. We also welcome the statements of the industrialized countries that they would actively work towards the success of this Conference which seeks to raise public consciousness, mobilize resources for the programme of action for the next decade, and enhance financial and technical means available to the developing countries for the purposes of formulating and implementing appropriate policies and programmes.

26. We reaffirm our commitment and rededicate ourselves to the objectives and purposes of the Group of Fifteen.

27. We welcome and accept the offer made by the Government of Argentina to host our Fifth Summit Meeting in 1995 and the offer by the Government of Zimbabwe to host the Sixth Summit Meeting in 1996.

28. We thank the people and Government of India for their hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the holding of the Fourth Summit Meeting of the Group of Fifteen.